

Abstract

The present invention provides a secreted protein (A55) produced by murine embryonic cardiac cells and a polynucleotide encoding the protein. The invention also provides a second secreted protein (A55b) produced by a splice variant of the gene encoding the first protein, and a polynucleotide encoding the variant. Finally, the invention also provides methods for utilizing the two proteins in the treatment and prevention of diseases, such as through the inhibition of proliferation of vascular smooth muscle cells and through the regulation of physiological activities including hematopoietic cell activity, tissue forming/repairing activity, activin/inhibin activity, chemotactic/chemokinetic activity, blood coagulating and thrombotic activity.